Four-lane road

528. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether necessary clearance has been given to the construction of four-lane road connecting Vallarpadam Container Terminal at Kochi;

(b) if so, the details of estimated cost of the project;

(c) the funds so far released for the purpose; and

(d) the present status of the work and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.557.00 crore. So far Rs.252.95 crore has been released for the purpose. The work has been awarded to M/s Suncon-Soma (JV) with scheduled date of completion as 09.02.2010. The present physical progress of the work is 26.12%.

Road accidents

529. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India accounts for 10 per cent of the total road accidents in the world and International Road Federation has set a target of reducing fatal road accidents in India by 50 per cent by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the effective measures taken by Government to check the increasing number of road accidents;

(d) whether Government has any proposal to introduce Highway Traffic Management System throughout the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No Sir. As per the data published in World Road Statistics 2008, by the International Road Federation, for the year 2005, the total Road accidents in the World were 78,84,804, of which, India's share was only 5.6 Percent.

(c) The Safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. This Department has, however, taken several steps to improve road safety for the road users which are as under:

(i) Road safety is the integral part of road design at the planning stage for National Highways/Expressways.